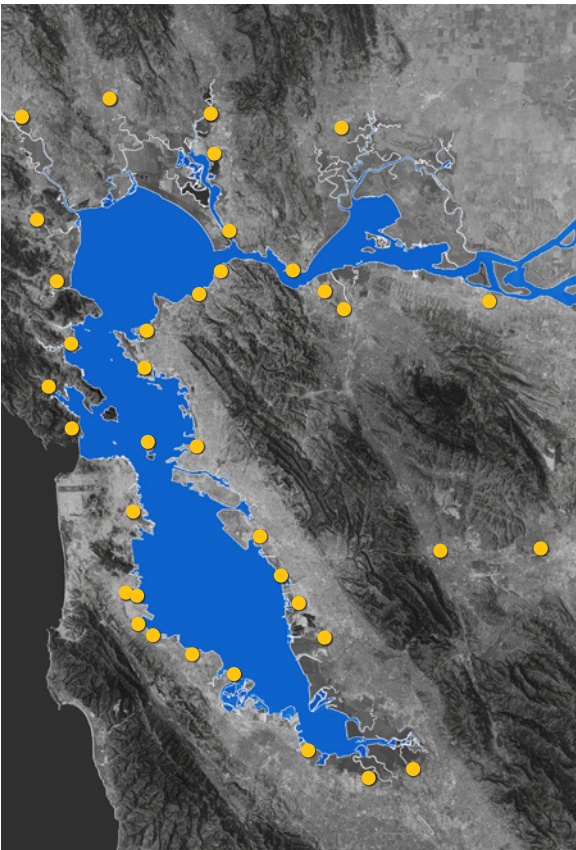




PROTECTING THE TRI-CITIES AND SAN FRANCISCO BAY

FALL 2019

MANAGING NUTRIENTS IN THE S.F. BAY



Nutrients such as nitrogen, ammonia, and phosphorus in water bodies have been a nationwide concern for many years. Though San Francisco Bay has a long history of high nutrient levels, elements such as tidal action, turbidity (cloudiness that hinders algal growth), and the presence of clams have reduced adverse impacts. However, turbidity has lessened, and clam populations are declining in parts of the Bay due to an abundance of predators. While obvious problems aren't apparent now, there is concern that the Bay could reach a tipping point that would affect its health.

Nutrients are naturally occurring compounds that may cause algae to grow faster than ecosystems can handle, leading to adverse impacts to water quality, food resources, and habitats as well as to decreases in oxygen that fish and aquatic life need to survive. USD is one of 37 regional wastewater agencies that discharge to the Bay contributing to research to increase understanding of how nutrient levels impact its water quality. These agencies are members of a joint powers authority known as Bay Area Clean Water Agencies (BACWA). BACWA members work collaboratively with the State's Regional Water Board, the EPA, the San Francisco Estuary Institute, and other organizations under a Nutrient Watershed Permit (Permit) to advance scientific understanding of how nutrients function throughout the Bay.

Dots above represent 37 wastewater agencies, including USD, that monitor nutrient levels and the health of San Francisco Bay.

One of the nutrients of concern is Total Nitrogen (TN). Every day, each person produces approximately 0.03 lbs. of TN, which is sent to wastewater treatment plants. This means that USD receives about 10,684 lbs. of TN per day from its 356,000+ service area population. Wastewater treatment plants in the Bay Area represent about two-thirds of nutrient loads because they were not originally designed to remove nutrients due to technology and funding barriers.

The Permit's technical studies will provide critical information to the State's Regional Water Board and the EPA as they develop nutrient management policies. Nutrient reduction requirements at wastewater treatment plants and more stringent regulations that would necessitate additional treatment process improvements are highly expected to be implemented in the future.



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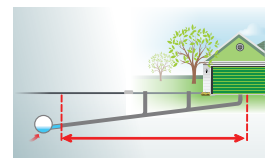
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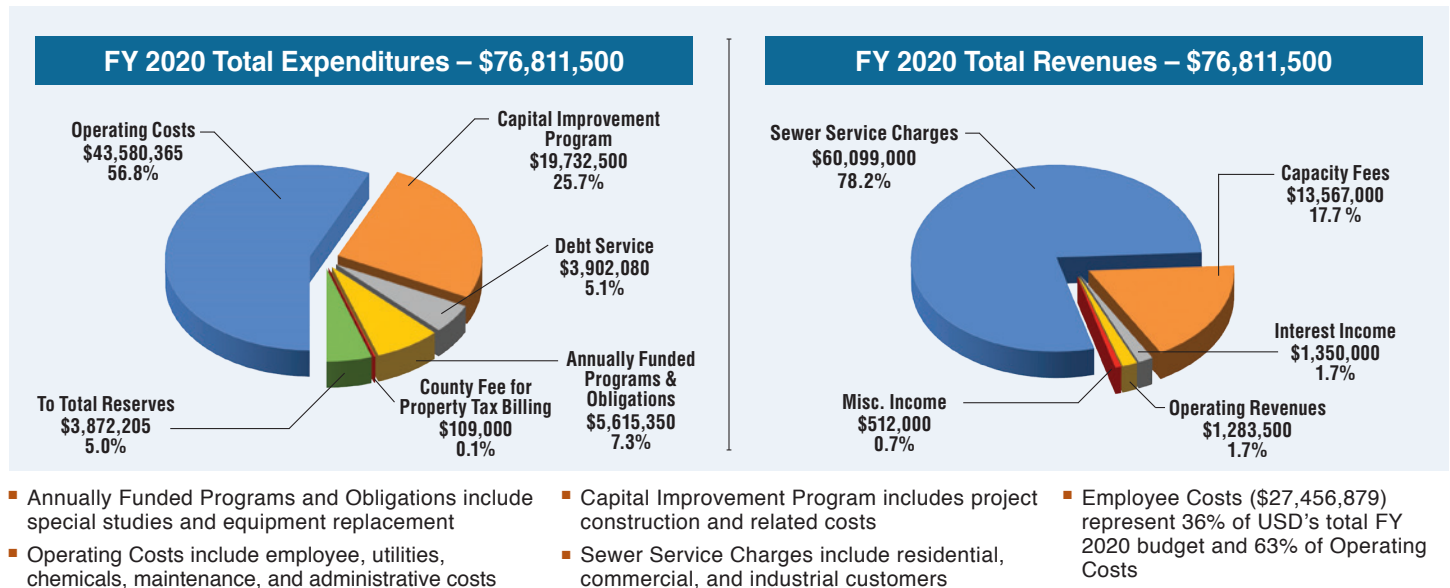
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BUDGET IN BRIEF

USD provides wastewater collection, treatment, and disposal services to over 356,000 residents in the Tri-Cities. The District manages 834 miles of sewer lines, seven pump stations, and the buildings and equipment at the 33-acre treatment plant. Through careful fiscal planning, we safeguard these public assets to ensure responsible maintenance and reliable service to customers at the lowest feasible rates. See how USD's rates compare to others in the Bay Area at unionsanitary.ca.gov/sewer-service-charges.



COURTESY RATE ADJUSTMENT NOTICE:

FISCAL YEAR 2020 SEWER SERVICE RATES

On January 25, 2016, the District's Board of Directors held a public hearing and adopted Ordinance 31.39, which established sewer service charges for Fiscal Years 2017 through 2021. Prior to the public hearing, the District participated in two public meetings and mailed a notice of the public hearing and informational brochure to all property owners in our service area.

Annual Sewer Service Charges are placed on the Alameda County property tax statement. The charges appear on the tax statement as a single line item and are listed as "Union Sewer Svc". Sewer Service Charges are not a property tax and are not related to the assessed value of a property. They represent a charge for a service provided. USD includes the annual charges on property tax statements to save the administrative cost of generating and mailing separate invoices. The adjacent table depicts last year's rates and the new rates for FY 2020. If you have questions, call USD at (510) 477-7500 or email to: rates@unionsanitary.ca.gov.

	Last Year's Rate FY 2019	This Year's Rate FY 2020
Residential (\$ per Dwelling Unit)		
Single Family Residences	\$407.12	\$421.37
Multiple Family Residences	\$352.97	\$365.32
Commercial (\$ per 1,000 gals)		
Strong	\$10.28	\$10.64
Moderate	\$5.07	\$5.25
Weak	\$4.23	\$4.37
Fast-Food Restaurant	\$9.61	\$9.95
Full-Service Restaurant	\$12.73	\$13.18
Industrial		
Volume (\$/1,000 gals)	\$2.39	\$2.48
COD (\$/1,000 lbs)	\$317.14	\$328.24
Suspended Solids (\$/1,000 lbs)	\$737.66	\$763.48
Minimum Charge for non-residential customers	\$352.97	\$365.32

USD'S ENHANCED TREATMENT & SITE UPGRADES:

BUILDING A VISION FOR THE FUTURE

For over a century, USD has provided wastewater services that improve water quality and protect public health for the Tri-Cities.

The District is responsible for operating and maintaining over \$669 million in assets. We plan carefully to maintain, rehabilitate, and replace infrastructure in a way that delivers optimum value to customers while ensuring compliance with increasingly stringent treatment standards.

As we meet today's challenges, we also prepare for tomorrow's. Although USD's infrastructure is well-maintained, portions of the treatment plant, located in Union City, date back to the 1960's. Major components of the plant are reaching the end of their useful life, will be unable to effectively treat wastewater to meet future state and federal requirements such as nutrient reductions, or do not meet current seismic standards. Additionally, successful water conservation practices and a growing population in the service area have resulted in higher solids volumes and concentrations in wastewater, making it more complicated and costly to treat.

USD has developed a roadmap for the treatment plant's infrastructure over the next 40+ years. It considers impending regulatory requirements such as nutrient restrictions, potential site layouts, and capacity needed to meet the future plans of the communities we serve. We rigorously examined multiple options to choose "best value" solutions for our Enhanced Treatment and Site Upgrades Projects. These include a combination of retrofitting, upgrading, and relocation of existing facilities as well as constructing new treatment processes and buildings. Project phases will be prioritized for maximum efficiency and cost-control. These improvements will reinforce our proud tradition of excellent service and stewardship of public funds for many decades to come.



USD plant today showing future projects:

- New or retrofitted treatment facilities
- New operations, maintenance, & support buildings

DID YOU KNOW?

THREE EASY WAYS TO PROTECT YOUR SEWER & THE ENVIRONMENT:

- **Your Toilet Isn't a Trashcan:** Don't flush dental floss, hair, bandages, or cigarette butts. Sanitary products, cotton swabs, paper towels, diapers, wipes, and facial tissues are made of materials that don't break down like toilet paper and can cause your lateral to back up. Keep these items out of your toilet.
- **Never Flush Wipes!** Those "flushable wipes" aren't so flushable. They may flush down your toilet, but wipes don't break down like toilet paper. They can bunch up to clog your pipes as well as impact our mains. Dispose of all wipes in your trash.
- **Never Put Fats, Oils, or Grease (FOG) in Your Drains:** They can solidify and cause messy backups into your home, onto streets, and down storm drains, which lead to the Bay. **COOL IT, CAN IT, and TRASH IT** instead: Let FOG cool down, then pour it into an empty soup or pet food can with absorbent paper and discard in your trash.

Find USD on
Social Media



USD posts tips for keeping your sewer healthy and protecting the environment on our Facebook page and @usdtweets, plus news about our activities in the Tri-Cities. **Follow us for online info!**

UNION SANITARY DISTRICT

5072 Benson Road
Union City, CA 94587-2508

PRESORTED
STANDARD
US POSTAGE
PAID
SACRAMENTO, CA
PERMIT NO 333

ECR WSS

SEWER LATERAL QUESTIONS? WATCH OUR VIDEO

- **View lots of useful information for property owners**, including tips for contacting USD if you think you have a sewer problem, researching a licensed, insured drain cleaning company or plumber, actions you can take to keep your sewer lateral healthy, and more. Check it out at unionsanitary.ca.gov/lateral-video.
- **Your sewer lateral is a pipe that connects the plumbing system in your residence or business to USD's main sewer line. Property owners are responsible for maintenance, repair, or replacement of their entire sewer lateral up to its connection to USD's main line.** This includes portions located under sidewalks and streets (see exhibit below).
- **Do's and Don'ts for a Healthy Lateral:** Only human waste, soaps, toilet paper, food ground in a garbage disposal, household cleaning products, and over-the-counter drain cleaners should go into your sewer line. Keep wipes, fats, oils, grease, medicine, and toxic chemicals out of your lateral.
- **If a problem is found in your lateral, before any work begins, a USD repair permit is required** (even for repairs on private property). Call (510) 477-7500 for more information.

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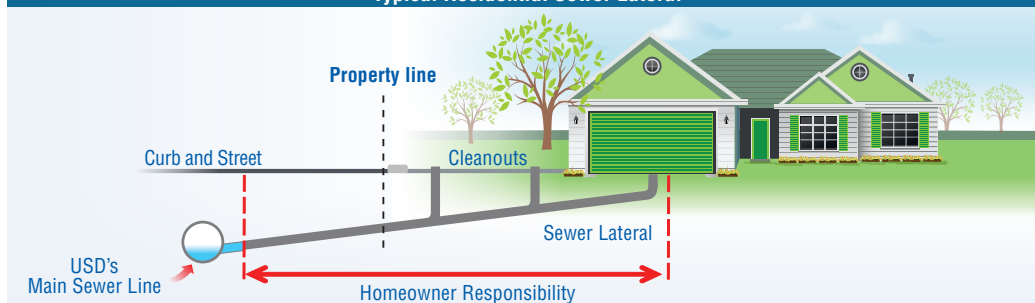
Sami Ghossain
Technical Services Manager

Armando Lopez
Treatment & Disposal Services Manager

James Schofield
Collection Services Manager

Robert Simonich
Fabrication, Maintenance, & Construction Manager

Typical Residential Sewer Lateral



From USD's Lateral Video



For more tips about keeping your lateral healthy, check our website at www.unionsanitary.ca.gov or call us at (510) 477-7500.

UNION SANITARY DISTRICT'S MISSION:

To safely and responsibly collect and treat wastewater, and to recover resources from process waste streams, while protecting human health and improving the environment in a way that benefits the Tri-Cities and all USD stakeholders.